

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

Construction of the New Fire Station 2 and Fire Administration Building Begins Soon

Construction will begin soon on a new fire station in DeSoto located at 206 S. Parks Drive. This new station will replace DeSoto's current station 2 located on Belt Line Road. Funding for the new station was approved by voters in the 2014 Bond Referendum.

The new 14,200 square foot, three-apparatus bay fire station will include:

- Sleeping alcove bunk rooms with adjacent dayroom, kitchen, dining area and physical agility room
- Offices for Fire Administration and Fire Prevention

A Community Safe Room funded by a grant from FEMA will provide a hardened space that can withstand winds up to 250 mph with 3 second wind gusts. This room will serve as a multi-purpose community meeting/training space and backup Emergency Operations Center.

"We are using an architectural firm that is fairly new to Texas with a history of building hurricane resistant fire stations in an area that has seen its share of tornados. I think it just makes sense for us to take advantage of their expertise," said DeSoto Fire Rescue Chief Jerry Duffield. "Thanks to the added protection afforded by the mitigation grant from FEMA and the Texas Department of Emergency Management, this will be a one-of-kind facility on the cutting edge of survivability, sustainability, and operational functionality," said Chief Duffield.



City Calendar

June

2 Crawfish Fest - Amphitheater 6 pm
4 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
4 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
7 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
7 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
12 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm
16 Juneteenth Celebration - Duncanville
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 Forte Band Concert Amphitheater 8 pm
25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am10
26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. -City Hall -7 pm

July

2 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
2 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
3 City Council Mtg. canceled for holiday
4 City Facilities Closed for July 4th Holiday
5 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
5 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
5 Historical Foundation Mtg.— 6 pm
10 Planning & Zoning Mtg.
17 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
23 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
24 Planning & Zoning Mtg.—City Hall 7 pm
27 BIFF Band Concert Amphitheater 8 pm
27 & 28 City Council Budget Meetings



DeSoto Library Director, Kerry McGeath (right) recently received the 2018 Achievement of Library Excellence Award from the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association. The award was presented by Texas State Librarian, Mark Smith (left).

DeSoto Public Utilities Offers Free Water Conservation Courses

The DeSoto Public Utilities Department has partnered with Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center to offer a series of water efficiency and landscape maintenance classes focused on techniques to conserve water and reduce monthly water bills. These classes are free of charge to DeSoto residents, but will require registration. Classes are limited to 75 attendees. You will want to sign up early to guarantee your seat. Here's the schedule:



Water U Doing?: Water Efficient Sprinklers Monday, July 23, 2018 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

What are you doing for your landscape? Save water, money and time by giving your sprinkler system a "Spruce Up". Come learn how minor do it yourself repairs and simple irrigation tips



can make a MAJOR impact on your water waste and your water bill. If you've got questions about your controller or how much your lawn and landscape really needs, we've got a stream of info to get your plants looking their best!

Pots In Small Spots: Container Gardening Monday, August 13, 2018 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Gardening in containers is a great way to grow your horticulture skills! If you have a small yard or patio that needs a pop of ornamental color, are frustrated with the poor soils on your property, or just simply don't have the space to grow your fruits and veggies, then give container gardening a try. This course is such a fun way to put the Spiller, Filler and Thriller back in your life and your landscape. You won't be able to contain yourself!



All workshops take place at the Jim Baugh Government Center in the City Council Chambers located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. To attend, please register online at www.desototexas.gov or by calling 972.230.5724.

Did You Know? ... That If You Have an Intrusion Alarm System, You Must Get an Alarm Permit from the City of DeSoto Prior to Activation

All businesses and residences equipped with an intrusion detection system are required to have a permit which is available for purchase from the Utility Billing window. Failure to obtain a permit can result in a fine of up to \$500 plus court costs. The annual cost for a business alarm is \$65 and \$35 for a residential permit. Senior citizens 65+ are not charged the fee but must still obtain a permit. The fee will be waived once they have provided a copy of their driver's license showing proof of age. All permits must be renewed annually on the anniversary date of the issuance of the permit. This permit allows you three false alarms in a consecutive 12 month period before false alarm fees are assessed. A permit is required whether or not your system is monitored. Seniors are not exempt from any false alarm fees that occur over the first three that are free. Additional false alarms will be assessed escalating fines/fees starting at \$50 up to \$100 for each false alarm. Operating an alarm system without a permit will subject the operator/owner to a citation for each occurrence. The permit application form is available on the City's website at www.desototexas.gov, and at the Utility Billing Department in City Hall located at, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto, TX 75115. If you would like more information on the alarm permit program, please call 469.658.3018.

High Weeds And Grass

City Ordinances require that weeds and grass be kept below 12 inches in height. As the owner or occupant of the property, you are required to maintain the property from the street in the front to the middle of the alley in the back (or the property line). This includes the front, back, side yards, the right-of-way (the area between the sidewalk and the curb) and the alley and easement. If you have questions or would like to report a code violation, please call the Code Enforcement office at 469.658.3075.



BUILD YOUR RESUME! JOIN THE DESOTO JUNIOR CIVIC ACADEMY!



Interested in a career in local government?
Would you like to enhance your resume with an internship?

The DeSoto JCA is a new 11-week program designed to expose high school juniors and seniors to the inner-workings of our local government. Enjoy benefits such as community service hour credit, internships in municipal government and possible job opportunities after high school. Learn about

- City Administration
- City Council
- Economic Development
- Finance & Budget
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Library
- Municipal Court
- Parks & Recreation
- Police, Fire Rescue & EMS
- Public Health
- Public Utilities
- Public Works
- Regional Dispatch 9-1-1

BEGINS AUGUST 16, 2018
ONE SESSION PER WEEK — 5:45-8:30 P.M.
SESSIONS ARE HOSTED AT DESOTO CITY HALL
AND OTHER CITY FACILITIES. DINNER IS PROVIDED.
APPLY BY JULY 20 — [JCA@DESOTOTEXAS.GOV](mailto:jca@desototexas.gov)



The Next Civic Academy Begins August 16th

The City of DeSoto invites you to participate in this year's Civic Academy, which is scheduled to begin in August.

The Civic Academy is a series of eleven educational sessions designed to teach DeSoto citizens about their local government runs concurrently with the Junior Civic Academy. Participants will learn about DeSoto's history, tour City facilities, get a behind-the-scenes look at each department and the services offered, and experience first-hand the equipment used to provide these services. The Civic Academy also affords the opportunity to meet department heads one-on-one.

Any DeSoto resident, 16 or older, willing to commit the time necessary to complete this informative, interesting, and intense program is eligible to participate. The sessions are FREE and include all supplies and dinner for participants. The sessions will be held on eleven consecutive Thursday evenings from 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm beginning August 16, 2018.

To attend or for more information, please contact Nelda Bond at 972.230.9643 or email at nbond@desototexas.gov to request an application. The Civic Academy is open to the first 25 DeSoto citizens who submit a completed application.

4TH OF JULY 2018 CELEBRATION

FIREWORKS • GAMES • VENDORS

FOOD • LIVE MUSIC

PERFORMING LIVE

DAVE HOLLISTER

also performing



Orchards
Bloom



Mark
Ayers, Jr



Malik Heard
featured on The Voice



Shy
Speaks

Wednesday, July 4th

LANCASTER COMMUNITY PARK

1700 Veterans Memorial Parkway



DAVE HOLLISTER
Chicago '85

FREE EVENT

6pm - 9pm

BIFF BAND

DE SOTO ARTS COMMISSION
FOURTH FRIDAYS
MUSIC SERIES

Friday, July 27th 8pm
DeSoto Outdoor Amphitheatre
211 E. Pleasant Run Road

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DeSoto's Fourth Friday Concert Series moves outdoors to the Amphitheater behind the Library for the summer. Grab your lawn chairs and join us at the Amphitheater on June 27th at 8pm for a free concert featuring the Back In Full Force (BIFF) Band. BIFF is a high-energy jazz band known for their dynamic concepts and crowd pleasing performances. Specializing in smooth jazz and funk, BIFF has shared the stage with Kirk Whalum, Will Downing, Spyro Gyra, Wayman Tisdale, KEM and Morris Day the Time just to name a few. Concessions are available for purchase. For more information, please call 972.230.9648.

